

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 033176

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 033176

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, UK, AV, SC, RQ

SUBJECT: DOG/ANEGADA ISLANDS

1. FOLLOWING UP ON BRITISH NOTE (POUCHED) ASKING FOR MORE DETAILS ON US INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING NAVAL WEAPONS FIRING RANGE ON DOG OR ANEGADA ISLAND, STATE AND DOD REPRESENTATIVES AND PUERTO RICO-CULEBRA LEGAL ADVISER COPAKEN MET WITH BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS (SYKES AND WALKER) ON FEBRUARY 12.

2. DOD PRESENTED BRITISH WITH BRIEF PAPER OUTLINING TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF RANGE (SEE SEPTTEL) AND UK EMBASSY WAS ASKED TO TRANSMIT TO HMG REQUEST ON BEHALF OF DOD-PUERTO RICO COMMISSION ON CULEBRA FOR MEETING WITH FCO ON FEBRUARY 20 OR 27 TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 033176

3. DURING GENERAL REVIEW, DISCUSSION CENTERED ON POLITICAL

PROBLEMS INVOLVED, NATURE OF QUID TO BE OFFERED ANGUILLANS, U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, NATURE OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS AND PRINCIPAL PARTIES BEING CONSIDERED, AND LEVEL OF BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED MEETING IN LONDON.

4. SYKES NOTED THAT ST. KITTS PREMIER BRADSHAW IS PRESENTLY IN LONDON FOR TALKS ON CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE, AND HE HAD

NO INDICATION HOW THOSE CONVERSATIONS WERE GOING. RESULT IS LIKELY TO HAVE BEARING ON HMG POSITION ON DOG ISLAND PROPOSAL. (DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFO EMBASSY DEVELOPS ON THOSE TALKS.)

5. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, DOD TEAM:

A. INDICATED CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO VARIOUS WAYS OF PROVIDING ELECTRICITY AND POTABLE WATER TO ANGUILLA, AS REQUESTED BY DOG ISLAND OWNERS.

B. ASSURED THAT CONGRESS IS AS INTERESTED IN FINDING SUITABLE, LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVE AS IT IS IN GETTING US NAVY OFF CULEBRA.

C. EXPLAINED IT HAD NOT DETERMINED EXACT NATURE OR DURATION OF AGREEMENTS IT WOULD SEEK FOR WEAPONS RANGE. DOD IS CONSIDERING AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD RUN 25 YEARS, RENEWABLE FOR 15 MORE. IT COULD BE GOVT-TO-GOVT, OR INVOLVE PRIVATE LEASE BY PUERTO RICO WITH SUBLEASE TO US NAVY AND ENDORSEMENTS BY US, UK AND ANGUILLA.

D. STRESSED IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO URGENCY OF RESOLVING WEAPONS RANGE PROBLEM, NOTING IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE MADE BY JULY 1 INDICATING UNDERSTANDING REACHED OR THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY TOWARD AGREEMENT ON REPLACEMENT SITE FOR CULEBRA.

6. DOD TEAM INDICATED THAT FOR TECHNICAL REASONS IT WOULD PREFER TO USE ANEGADA, BUT THAT IT WAS SENSITIVE TO SYKES EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER PROBLEMS OF RELOCAT-
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PAGE 03 STATE 033176

ING INHABITANTS. DOG ISLAND OFFERS ADVANTAGES OF NOT BEING INHABITED AND BEING DISTANT FROM OTHER ISLANDS. A FURTHER ADVANTAGE IS STATED INTEREST OF OWNERS AND ANGUILLA COUNCIL IN OBTAINING WATER AND ELECTRICITY FOR ANGUILLA IN RETURN FOR USE OF DOG ISLAND.

7. SYKES, STATING THAT HE WAS EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEWS AND NOT ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS.

A. TECHNICAL MATTERS APPEAR EASIEST TO RESOLVE, WHILE POLITICAL ASPECT IS THE DIFFICULT PROBLEM.

B. HMG WOULD WANT MORE PRECISE INDICATION OF PROPOSED QUID FOR ANGUILLA AND HOW IT WOULD BE HANDLED.

C. HMG WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS IN MORE DETAIL KIND OF AGREEMENT FORESEEN IF PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED BY BRITISH.

D. HE DOUBTED FINAL DECISION COULD BE REACHED BY JULY 1, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY.

8. PROPOSED LONDON MEETING.

A. BRITISH EMBASSY WAS ASKED TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT FOR THE DOD-PUERTO RICO COMMISSION ON CULEBRA FOR FEBRUARY 20, IF POSSIBLE, OR FEBRUARY 27. (IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT SINCE 20TH IS CLOSE AT HAND, A MEETING ON 27TH APPEARED MORE REALISTIC TARGET.) U.S. REPRESENTATION WOULD BE: STUART FRENCH (DOD, COMMISSION CO-CHAIRMAN), PEDRO SANJUAN (DOD, COMMISSION MEMBER), CAPT. JOHN JENKINS (GENERAL COUNSEL, SECRETARY OF NAVY), VICTOR PONS (COMMISSION CO-CHAIRMAN, FORMER PUERTO RICO SECSTATE), AND RICHARD COPAKEN (COVINGTON & BURLING LAWYER FOR PR AND CULEBRA AND COMMISSION MEMBER). STATE WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY EMBASSY LONDON.

B. DOD REPS INDICATED THEY WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF STATE JOAN LESTOR IF POSSIBLE. SYKES APPEARED FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD LONDON MEETING. HE SAID THAT WHILE MINISTERIAL LEVEL IS GENERALLY AWARE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 033176

MATTER, PROPOSAL SHOULD BE FAIRLY WELL THOUGHT OUT AT OFFICIAL LEVELS FIRST. MENTION WAS ALSO MADE OF POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF MINISTRIES OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT AND DEFENSE (FRENCH SUGGESTED ALASTAIR JAFFREY IN MOD). SYKES UNDERTOOK TO INFORM HMG OF FOREGOING, WHILE NOTING THAT HMG WOULD WORK OUT COMPOSITION OF ITS SIDE IN TALKS.

9. EMBASSY LONDON REQUESTED TO FOLLOW UP THIS REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH FCO AND INFORM DEPT. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR EVALUATION OF ADVISABILITY OF MEETING WITH MS. LESTOR OR WHETHER PROSPECTS WOULD BE BETTER AT ANOTHER HIGH LEVEL IN FCO. INGERSOLL

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